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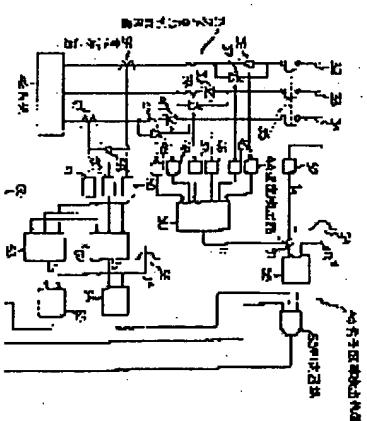
(54) ELEMENT FAULT DETECTING DEVICE OF AC  
**POWER CONTROLLER**

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To quickly execute a protecting operation and to detect even a short circuit of a single phase by deciding it to be a fault, when a temperature of a case of a switching element becomes lower than a prescribed temperature rise.

CONSTITUTION: Temperatures of cases of thyristors 36 - 41 are detected by temperature detectors 44 - 49, respectively, and that of the minimum value among them is selected by a temperature minimum value selecting circuit 50 and outputted as a temperature minimum value signal  $T_c$ . This signal  $T_c$  is compared with an ambient temperature value signal  $T_a$  by a sub-

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